

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid, capable of hybridizing in a solution containing 1.0M Na⁺ ion, pH 7.0-8.3, at a temperature of 60°C, to a nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, and 5, or complements thereof, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid or its complement encodes a MINK3 protein.
2. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid, comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 90% identity to a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, and 5 or complements thereof, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid or its complement encodes a MINK3 protein.
3. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, and 5 or complements thereof.
4. (Original) A recombinant polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, and 6.
5. (Original) A recombinant polypeptide according to claim 4, further comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, and 6.
6. (Original) A recombinant polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence which is encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 2.
- 7-15. (Withdrawn)

16. (New) A recombinant nucleic acid, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a MINK3 protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, and 6.
17. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claims 1, 2, or 16.
18. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 17.
19. (New) A method of making a MINK3 protein comprising the step of culturing the host cell of claim 18 under conditions suitable for expression of the MINK3 protein.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of isolating the MINK3 protein.